wise glad that he -bad preserved this gentlewoman from wilful! famine, and gave judgment on the other in this manner:—That he should restore the money treble which he had wrongfully got from him; and so was to have a yeere's imprisonment. So this gentleman and his wife, went with the king's leave, lovingly home, where they were kindely welcomed by George, to whom for re-compence'he gave the money which he received: so lived they ever after in great content. MALONE.

See p. 31, 32, n. 7. " — If she went before others I have seen, as that diamond of yours out-lustres many I have beheld, I could not *but* believe she excell'd many: but I have not seen the most precious diamond that is, nor you the lady." The old copy reads— I could *not believe* she excell'd many. Dr. Warburton very properly asks, "What, if she did really excell others, could he not believe that she did excell them ? " To restore-therefore the passage to sense, he omits the word *not,* and reads —" I *could believe* she excell'd many,*'—which undoubtedly affords a clear sense. • *ét* The old reading, (says Mr. Steevens,) may very well stand. If, says lachimo, your mistress went before *some* others I have seen, *only in the same degree* your diamond out-lustres many I have likewise seen, I should not admit on that account that she excelled many; *but* I ought not to make myself the judge of who Is the fairest lady, or which is the brightest diamond^ till I have beheld the finest of either kind which nature has hitherto produced."

To this paraphrase I make the same objection that I have done to many others in revising these plays ; namely, that a meaning is extracted from the words that they in no sort warrant. In the first place Mr. S. understands the word *as* to mean *only as,* or *as little as*; and assumes that lachimo means, not merely to deny the super-eminent and unparallel'd value of the diamond of Posthumus, but greatly to depretiate it; though both the context, and the words —went before, most precious, and *out-lustres,* must present to every reader a meaning directly opposite. Sdlv. According to this Interpretation, the adversative particle *but* is used without any propriety; as will appear at once by shortening Mr. Steevens's paraphrase, and adding a few words that are necessary to make the deduction consequential;

** If your mistress went before others I have seen, only in the same degree your diamond out-lustres *mam/* I have likewise seen, I should not admit on that account that she excelled many, [for your diamond is an *ordinary* stone, and does not excell many:} *But* I have not seen the most precious diamond in the world, nor you the most beautiful lady ; *and therefore I can not admit she esc-cells all"*

Here after asserting'that "he could *not* admit she excelled